

Talking Points
Press Conference on IHL Board Appointees
2 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2008
Jackson

Today, I have the honor of announcing my appointment of four outstanding Mississippians to the State College Board.

Words like “honor” and “outstanding” can be a little overworked these days, but they are perfectly appropriate today ... not because of me, but because of the willingness of these four exceptionally educated, intelligent, experienced and talented people to accept a vitally important assignment in service of their fellow citizens.

Let me introduce them to you:

Alan W. Perry, of Jackson

- Will represent the 1st (Central) Supreme Court District.

Alan is a founding partner of the Foreman Perry
Watkins Krutz & Tardy law firm in Jackson.

- He is a trustee of the Robert M. Hearin Foundation and Support Foundations, which are charitable organizations that work to support Mississippi colleges and universities. Listed as a “Leading Lawyer” in Chambers USA, Perry is also listed in The Best Lawyers in America for three categories: business litigation, corporate law, and “bet the company” litigation.
- Alan graduated with a bachelor’s degree in accountancy from the University of Mississippi. He earned a law degree from Harvard Law School, where he was editor and senior editor of the Harvard Law Review and had the highest GPA in his graduating class. Perry is a former member of the board of visitors of Harvard Law School and the Mississippi College School of Law.

C.D. Smith, Jr., of Meridian

- Will also represent the 1st (Central) Supreme Court District. C.D. is regional manager with AT&T in Meridian.
- He is chairman of the board of trustees of Meridian Community College; chairman of the board of directors of the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Institute; and a member of the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Commission. He is on the Columbus-Lowndes Industrial Development Corporation’s board and also serves on the board of governors for the Mississippi Economic Council.
- He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from Mississippi State University and previously served on the national board of directors of the MSU Alumni Association. He is the top non-commissioned officer in the Mississippi Air National Guard.

Christy Pickering, of Biloxi

- Will represent the 2nd Supreme Court District. Christy is a Certified Public Accountant with her own CPA firm since 1991.
- She serves as a director of Hancock Bank and Hancock Holding Company; as a member of the board of directors of Mississippi Power Company and Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation; and is past chairman of the board of trustees for Gulf Coast Medical Center.
- Christy is an honors graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has a taste of what the IHL Board faces ... in 2006, she was a member of the University of Southern Mississippi's Presidential Transition Team.

Dr. Douglas W. Rouse, of Hattiesburg

- Will also represent the 2nd (Southern) Supreme Court District. Dr. Rouse is licensed by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Medical Association, and the State of Mississippi, and a partner at Southern Bone and Joint Specialists, where he has practiced since 1998.
- A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Rouse holds a bachelor's degree in science, and earned a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He is a member of the Area Development Partnership board and also already has a taste of one element in higher education ... he serves on the University of Southern Mississippi Athletic Foundation.

These are some of the highlights of the education, backgrounds, professional experience and community

involvement of, frankly, good people who already lead busy lives but nonetheless have graciously agreed to serve as members of the College Board.

Just let me add an observation that while they have pursued different careers, they share at least two common denominators: success and a deep passion for education.

I have great confidence in each of these appointees and deeply appreciate their willingness to serve their state in this manner.

Their nominations will be sent to the Senate very quickly and I hope and expect they will be confirmed before this legislative session ends so their important work with Dr. Tom Meredith and their colleagues on the IHL Board can begin.

Thank each of you.

